

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 OIC-02

CU-04 DHA-02 FRB-03 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 /091 W

-----055918 162035Z /70

R 161813Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0354

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, UN, AORG

SUBJ: ECE - DELAY IN AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

REF: A. GENEVA 7001; B. GENEVA 5239

1. REF A ADVISED THAT DOCUMENTS FOR ECE TRADE COMMITTEE AD HOC MEETING TO DISCUSS MULTILATERAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM, TO BE HELD GENEVA 15-16 SEPTEMBER, NOT YET AVAILABLE. REF B ADVISED THAT DOCUMENT OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO USG FOR MEETING OF ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GENEVA 4-8 JULY 1977, NOT AVAILABLE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO STRART OF MEETING. THIS DOCUMENT (ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS FOR SAME MEETING) WAS NOT IN FACT AVAILABLE UNTIL WELL AFTER OPENING OF MEETING ALTHOUGH SENT BY ECE FOR PROCESSING ON 20 MAY. DEPT MAY HAVE NOTED THAT LETTERS FROM ECE MEMBER GOVTS ON POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BEING CURCULATED BY ECE NEARLY ONE MONTH AFTER RECEIPT. ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR 19-21 SEPTEMBER CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF ECE SENIOR ENVORNMENTAL ADVISERS ON THIS SUBJECT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ONLY IN ORIGINAL ENGLISH VERSION, AN FRENCH AND RUSSIAN VERSIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE MUCH IN ADVANCE OF MEETING. ECE HAS RECENTLY BEEN REQUESTED TO TYPE OWN DOCUMENTS ON STEN-  
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CILS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

2. ECE SECRETARIAT ADVISES THAT AFORESAID SITUATION DUE IN MAXOR PART TO BACKUP IN UN/GENEVA DOCUMENTS PROCESSING. WHEREAS TRANSLATION, TYPING, REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS SHOULD UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES TAKE NO MORE THAN ONE TO TWO WEEKS (DEPENDING ON SIZE OF DOCUMENT), THIS PROCESS NOW TAKING

UP TO SEVEN WEEKS.

3. ECE SECRETARIAT BLAMES WORSENING SITUATION OF DOCUMENTS PROCESSING ON PRIORITY GIVEN TO REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY UN/NY FOR MEETINGS NOT SPONSORED BY GENEVA-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (HUMAN RIGHTS, DESERTIFICATION, ECOSOC, ETC.) AND ON ESCALATION OF UNCTAD DOCUMENTATION. SECRETARIAT SEES SEVERAL POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION: (1) INCREASE IN PROCESSING CAPACITY (FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE OF COURSE NOT AVAILABLE), (2) LIMIT ON NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD IN GENEVA (ESPECIALLY BY NON-GENEVA BASED ORGANIZATIONS), (3) RESTRICTION ON PROCESSING IN GENEVA OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY NON-GENEVA-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, (4) MORE RATIONAL ORDER OF PRIORITY (WHICH TO ECE MEANS EQUAL TREATMENT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING UNCTAD), AND (5) LIMIT ON OVERALL VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION PERMITTED (WHICH MAY SEEM MOST RATIONAL BUT PROBABLY MOST DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND WITH MOST LIMITED EFFECT).

4. MISSION HAS OBSERVED PROBLEM OF DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS FOR MEETINGS OF GENEVA-BASED UN ORGANIZATIONS GROWN STEADILY OVER PAST YEAR. SITUATION HAS NOW REACHED CRISIS PROPORTIONS AND URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED. VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT AND USUN ON SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR UN/GENEVA DOCUMENTS PROCESSING, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 7001, 77 GENEVA 5239  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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